

Washington, DC -- Working to promote public safety, ensure communities have the resources necessary to fight crime, and give local law enforcement the best tools possible, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) has secured a funding commitment for the Lakewood Sheriff Station's modernization project. Sánchez got the project included in the Commerce, Justice, State Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations bill, which passed the House Appropriations Committee today, and is expected to be passed in the U.S. House of Representatives shortly.

In last year's Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 2673), Sánchez successfully secured \$200,000 for the modernization effort, but the City of Lakewood is in need of additional funding to complete the renovations and technology upgrade of the Sheriff Station.

"The main Lakewood Sheriff Station was built in 1958 and now serves five cities with a population of 250,000 people - a 25% increase over the population it served in 1958. The station has some real limitations, both in terms of space and technology. Given how many people and cities are served by the Lakewood Station, I want to work with the local community to bring state-of-the-art computers and crime-fighting technology to the facility," said Congresswoman Sánchez.

Sánchez has met with Mayor Todd Rogers and Lakewood officials on several occasions to discuss the city's top priorities and projects. At all the meetings, local leaders said their number one project was the modernization and expansion of the Lakewood Sheriff Station. In addition to serving the City of Lakewood, the station provides key support for sheriff's operations in four other local cities: Artesia, Bellflower, Hawaiian Gardens, and Paramount. Upgrading the technology and improving communication will not only benefit law enforcement and the public in Lakewood, but also in the four surrounding cities. In addition to meeting with officials, Sánchez has toured the Lakewood Sheriff's station.

"Nothing could be more important to the safety of Lakewood neighborhoods and the four other cities the sheriff's station serves than the expansion and modernization of this 45-year-old facility. A diverse, growing population of more than 250,000 residents needs these improvements to bring our law enforcement facility into the 21st century," said Mayor Todd Rogers.

The funding commitment Congresswoman Sánchez secured today will help make technology improvements, which include video information that can be routed to individual workstations located in the Emergency Operations Command Post. This equipment will provide officers with real time incident monitoring and immediate incident updates. Other upgrades include a nine-camera closed circuit TV system to provide 24-hour perimeter security for the station grounds, and improved phone system that will allow the public to more quickly access sheriff's department personnel.

Congresswoman Sánchez will continue working hard to see that the maximum funding level possible for the modernization program is obtained. The exact funding level for the program will be determined when the bill proceeds to a final negotiation session between the U.S. House and Senate.

“It is critical that we finish this project, which will provide our sheriff personnel with the most modern equipment to improve their ability to protect our communities and fight crime,” concluded Sánchez.